(b) RBI has not fixed any common criteria to decide the eligibility for loans. Banks take decision in the matter on the basis of their commercial judgement.

(c) RBI had issued standing guidelines to banks for providing relief in areas affected by natural calamities with a view to allowing greater discretion to banks to decide upon the quantum of relief assistance to be provided to the affected farmers. These guidelines permit banks to convert/reschedule loans in the event of natural calamity for periods ranging from 3 to 9 years depending upon the successive crop failure/ intensity of damage to crops, grant fresh crop loans to affected farmers, convert principal as well as interest due on the existing loans, not to compound interest in respect of loans converted/rescheduled, relaxations in security and margin norms, etc. consequent on the announcement made by the Government on 18.6.2004 to double the flow of agricultural loans in the next three years, RBI has issued guidelines to banks to implement the package which *inter-alia* provides for debt restructuring/ rescheduling and fresh loan to farmers, affected by natural calamities.

Tourists visiting Rajasthan and Punjab

1436. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of foreign and domestic tourists visiting Rajasthan and Punjab has fallen drastically during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and

(c) whether Government propose to rescue the fading tourist situation in Rajasthan by introducing new plans and incentives to revive tourism in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) On the basis of information received from the State Governments, the number of visits

of foreign and domestic tourists to the States of Rajasthan and Punjab during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Rajasthan		Punjab	
	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign
2001	7757217	608283	474305	3258
2002	8300190	428437	317904	7558
2003	12545135	628560	1150015	4589

(c) There is no fading tourist situation in Rajasthan. In fact, there has been a growth of 51% and 47% in the visits of Domestic and Foreign tourists respectively in the State of Rajasthan during the year 2003 as compared to the year 2002. The State Government has taken following initiatives for the promotion of tourism in Rajasthan:-

(i) Aggressive publicity and marketing at national and international levels.

(ii) Participation in national and international travel marts.

(iii) Development of basic amenities/infrastructure at Tourist Sites.

(iv) Deployment of Tourist Assistance Force at various tourist places in the State.

In addition, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned 27 projects for the development of tourism in the State of Rajasthan during the first two years of 10th Five Year Plan and sanctioned an amount of Rs. 27.44 crores for the same.

Sale of shares of Kovalam Resort

1437. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale of shares of ITDC's Kovalam Resort has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details of the shares sold and the names of the buyers therein;

(c) the details of the buildings and landed properties mentioned in the sale-purchase agreement;

(d) whether the 'Halcyon Castle' was a part of the sale-agreement; and